

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Policy/Procedure Guideline

SECTION 5: Signing

SUBJECT 5.5: Adopt-A-Highway Signing

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 10, 1994

PARAGRAPH:

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1. PURPOSE:

The Adopt-A-Highway program was implemented to provide recognition to organizations who take pride in their area and provide volunteer help to achieve clean public roadsides. This permitting process is intended to provide the necessary coordination between Maricopa County and the organizations to achieve a safe and successful program.

2. DESCRIPTION:

The size and dimensions of the signs shall be as follows:

The Adopt-A-Highway sign (I60-2z) will be 48 inches wide and 24 inches high. The background is to be blue engineering grade with 4 inch B series white lettering. The sign will include a 1/2 inch border set 1/2 inch from the edge of the sign face. The wording shall be set 3 inches from the top and bottom edge of the sign face and the three lines shall be three inches apart. The first line shall be 41 5/8 inches long. The second line shall be 32 3/8 inches long. The third line shall be 32 3/4 inches long. See Exhibit A.

The plaque showing the organization's name (I60-2y MCDOT sign

code) shall be 48 inches wide and 12 inches high and installed below the I60-2z. The background of the sign is to be blue engineering grade with 1/2 inch border set 1/2 inch from the edge of the sign face. The sign will have white B series lettering that will vary in size; 4 inch for single line text and 3 inch for double line text. The wording will be centered on the sign face and will have a combined maximum of 40 characters/spaces. Because of its size these signs are installed on two Unistrut posts.

These steps are taken when Adopt-A-Highway signing is installed.

- a. The Traffic Engineering Division receives a notice (by way of memo) from MCDOT Operations that a certain organization has applied for and has been approved to maintain a section of roadway.
- b. A member of the Traffic Engineering Division makes a field survey of the section of roadway under question.
- c. The locations for the Adopt-A-Highway signs are determined and marked on a condition diagram or map. The location is typically .14 mile (740 ft) from the intersection. The distance may vary and can be anywhere from .02 to .20 miles depending on the location of other signing, driveways or other obstructions along the shoulder. Traffic signing should be at least 200 ft apart.
- d. The work orders are written by the Administrative Section of the Traffic Engineering Division, and are sent to the signing coordinator.
- e. The signs are made through the Traffic Engineering Sign Shop and the field crews install the signing.
- f. The work orders are then returned to the Administration Section and a memo is sent to MCDOT Operations showing that the work has been completed.

3. EXHIBITS:

- a. Adopt-A-Highway Sign and Organization name plate.

4. BACKGROUND:

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved an Adopt-A-Highway program. The program was approved on January 19, 1990. Originally, the Adopt-A-Highway signs were 36" x 48" and 48" x 60" depending on the traffic volume of the roadway. The sign included the organizations name. Installed with this sign was a fold down men working symbol sign. When folded up the sign displayed the County phone number for interested parties to call to adopt their own piece of roadway. When cleaning the area the organization was to fold down the sign to give advanced warning to drivers that there were people working along the roadway.

The larger signs were found to be too difficult to handle both in the sign shop and in the field. Because of this the smaller 36" x 48" sign was adopted. This sign used an area of 30" x 48" for the Adopt-A-Highway portion and 6" x 48" for the organization name.

Based on suggestions by the sign shop staff, the County Traffic Engineer implemented the new policy so MCDOT's signs would conform to ADOT standards and specifications for sign codes, and sizes. The sign dimensions were changed to 24" x 48", which is a standard size used by ADOT. The color remained the same as MCDOT's standard color of white text on blue background. It was decided not to use ADOT's turquoise background color because this color is very non-standard and requires us to order it special for only these signs and the name plaques. The organization name is placed on a separate plaque 12" x 48", and is placed beneath the Adopt-A-Highway sign.

The additional men working symbol sign is no longer used. It was considered to be a possible hazard to pedestrians and bike riders. The use of it can also give the volunteers a false

sense of security. The continuous sign hinge was also difficult to purchase and to install.

5. AUTHORIZATION:

Authorization is through approval by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

6. REFERENCES:

Non-applicable.

7. ATTACHMENTS:

Non-applicable.

Approved: _____

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